REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1 and 4 have been amended. Claims 1-9 are pending, with claims 6-9 being withdrawn from consideration. Applicants request that the non-elected claims be maintained and reinstated if amended to track allowed subject matter of the elected claims.

The title of the invention has been objected to by the Examiner. Applicants have amended the title of the invention accordingly.

Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections and submit that the original claim language is understandable and fully supported by the specification. However, Applicants have editorially amended claims 1 and 4 to render these issues moot. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections.

Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-5 stand rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,114,803 ("Hosotani"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicants disagree with the Examiner that the recitation of claim 1 is functional because the luminance and reflectance features in claim 1 clearly relate to physical properties of the panel itself. Independent claim 1 is directed to a cathode ray tube comprising a panel provided with a colored layer on an outer surface of a face portion. The face portion has a ratio of an emission luminance in a part that exhibits the lowest emission luminance to an emission luminance in a part that exhibits the highest luminance is not less than 75% and a ratio of a diffuse reflectance in a part that exhibits the lowest diffuse reflectance to a diffuse reflectance in a part that exhibits the highest diffuse reflectance is not less than 90%. By this configuration, a cathode ray tube with a natural appearance can be achieved by minimizing the perception of a luminance difference or a contrast difference over the entire area of the face portion. See, e.g., page 2, lines 12-14 of the specification.

Hosotani is directed to a cathode ray tube with a transparent film formed on a panel unit. Hosotani discloses that a carbon black or a pigment can be homogenously applied to the outer

face of a panel to allow for a substantially uniform transmittance. See, e.g., col. 6, lines 2-5. In contrast, by specifying both the emission luminance ratio and the diffuse reflectance ratio as recited in claim 1, the present invention is directed to an application distribution that would take into consideration, for example, a thickness variation of the panel and differences in viewing angles. See, e.g., page 4, lines 27-32 and page 5, lines 14-20. Applicants therefore submit that claim 1 is allowable over the cited reference.

Claims 2-5 depend from claim 1. Therefore, claims 2-5 are also believed to be allowable over the cited reference, for at least the reason that they are dependent upon an allowable base claim.

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

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Curtis B. Hamre
Reg. No. 29,165
DPM:DTL